

FOREIGN AGENTS FACE NEW CURBS

Senate Votes Tightening of Controls on Activity Held Harmful to U.S. Policy

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WASHINGTON, July 6—

The Senate approved today legislation to tighten the curbs on certain activities of agents of foreign governments and other foreign principals. Most of the agents are Americans.

Such activities were held, after a year's investigation by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, to be damaging to United States foreign policy and American prestige abroad.

The measure was sent to the House, where the Committee on Un-American Activities has similar legislation under consideration for expected early floor action.

Wide Range of Cases Studied

In making its investigation into weaknesses in the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, the Senate panel studied more than 250 reports made by registered agents, on file with the Justice Department.

It conducted its inquiry not from typical cases of alleged violations but from cases representing the wide range of patterns of operations deemed to be detrimental to the public interest.

"The committee has been aware for some time," Senator J. W. Fulbright, the panel's chairman, told the Senate, "of the growing tendency of foreign political and commercial interests to influence American policy by other than conven-

tional diplomatic representations.

Besides the Department of State, the Congress has also been the object of the efforts of the domestic representatives of foreign principals to influence American foreign policy generally and specific areas of policy such as foreign aid legislation.

"The bill before the Senate is designed to assure as far as possible the public disclosure of all persons acting for or in the interest of foreign principals whenever their activities are entirely or partly political in nature."

The Arkansas Democrat gave examples of activities by agents

that had been brought to light by investigation. He did not identify agents or principals.

He cited a magazine editor under fees from a foreign government for public relations work serving also as a paid consultant to a Congressional committee making a study of the client country.

An American public relations firm, he said, provided financial support to the organization of a committee of American nationals that came to Washington to protest American foreign policy toward their former homeland. The chairman of this group, he said, did not disclose that he was paid by the public relations firm.

In another instance, Mr. Fulbright said, a New York law firm hired as counsel in the United States by a foreign government helped arrange a special Presidential economic mission to the client country.

The legislation would empower the Attorney General to

seek injunctions to enforce compliance with the act and the regulations drafted to implement it. There would be stricter requirements for disclosure of activities and expenditures, as part of regular reports to the Justice Department.

The bill would prohibit campaign contributions for or on behalf of a foreign principal in connection with any primary or general election for public office. It would also prohibit contingent-fee contracts between agents and foreign principals based upon success in political activities by the agent.

A foreign agent appearing for or in the interest of his principal before a Congressional committee would be required to identify himself fully as to his principal and file his latest registration statement as part of the hearing record.

Officers and employees of the United States Government would be prohibited from acting as agents of foreign prin-

cipals. Contract or part-time employees of the Federal Government could act as agents if the head of the employing agency certified such employment to be in the national interest and a copy of the certification was filed with the Justice Department.